

Application No.: 10/760,126
Serial No.: January 16, 2004

REMARKS

The June 19, 2007 Office Action was based upon pending Claims 9-14 and 16-26. The Examiner rejected Claims 9-14 and 16-26. By this amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 9-11, 13, 16, 18-21, 25 and 26, canceled Claims 12 and 24, and added new Claims 27-31. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, Claims 9-11, 13, 14, 16-23 and 25-31 are pending and presented for further consideration.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner provisionally rejected Claims 9-14 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 23-25 and 27-29 of Applicant's co-pending U.S. Application No. 10/758,952.

The Examiner rejected Claims 9-14, 16, 18-22, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,246,214 issued to Oglesbee ("the Oglesbee patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,621,299 issued to Krall ("the Krall patent").

In addition, the Examiner rejected Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Oglesbee patent in view of the Krall patent and U.S. Patent No. 6,170,062 issued to Henrie ("the Henrie patent").

The Examiner also rejected Claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Oglesbee patent in view of the Krall patent and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0021164 to Fugate, et al. ("the Fugate publication").

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Provisional Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 9-11, 13 and 14

Applicant acknowledges the provisional double patenting rejection; however, since no claims in the co-pending application have been allowed, a terminal disclaimer is not yet appropriate. Applicant will submit a terminal disclaimer when the identified claims have been allowed in both applications if the claims have not otherwise been amended to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Rejection of Claims 9-11, 13, 14, 16-23, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 9-11, 13, 14, 16, 18-22, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Oglesbee patent in view of the Krall patent. In addition, the Examiner rejected Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Oglesbee patent in view of the Krall patent and the Henrie patent. The Examiner also rejected Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Oglesbee patent in view of the Krall patent and the Fugate publication.

Independent Claim 9

Focusing in particular on Claim 9 and the embodiment shown in Figures 2 and 3, a method for controlling battery power comprises coupling a first input terminal for receiving a first external power source (e.g., an AC adapter) 228 to a system power terminal (V-LOAD) via a first isolation diode 200. A second isolation diode 202 is used to couple a second input terminal for receiving a second external power source (e.g., a USB interface) 230 to the system power terminal (V-LOAD). A first bypass transistor 204 and a second bypass transistor 206 are coupled across the respective isolation diodes 200, 202. The first bypass transistor 204 is turned on (e.g., through AC-ENABLE) when the first external power source is selected to provide power to the system power terminal. Similarly, the second bypass transistor 206 is turned on (e.g., through USB-ENABLE) when the second external power source is selected to provide power to the system power terminal. The second bypass transistor 206 is forced off to effectively isolate the second external power source from the system power terminal when the first external power source is detected at the first input terminal (e.g., through an override diode 218).

An internal battery is coupled to the system power terminal via a series-connected regulating transistor 300 as shown in Figure 3. The internal battery is charged by linearly regulating the regulating transistor 300 with an adjustable voltage at a control terminal of the regulating transistor 300 to conduct a charging current in a first direction from the system power terminal to a positive terminal of the internal battery (V-BATTERY) during a charging mode. The level of current provided to the internal battery is controlled by the level of the adjustable voltage to prevent a supply current (e.g., indicated by I-SENSE) from exceeding a predefined threshold.

None of the cited references discloses a configuration that uses isolation diodes and bypass transistors across the respective isolation diodes to couple two different external power sources to a system power terminal with one of the bypass transistors forced off to effectively isolate one of the external power sources from the system power terminal when the other external source is present. Referring to Figure 1 of the Krall patent in particular, an AC input 29 is coupled to an AC/DC converter 63 through a first set of switches 16 and a DC input 27 is coupled to a bridge circuit 53 through a second set of switch 14. Outputs from the AC/DC converter 63 and the bridge circuit 53 are provided in parallel to a filter 51. The switches 14, 16 appear to operate together to connect the AC input 29 to the AC/DC converter 63 at the same time that the DC input 27 is connected to the bridge circuit 53. The Krall patent does not appear to disclose bypass transistors coupled across isolation diodes or isolating one of the power sources when the other power source is present.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 9 is patentably distinguished over the Krall patent and the other cited references and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claim 9.

Dependent Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 25 and 26

Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 25 and 26, which depend from Claim 9, are believed to be patentable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claim 9, and because of the additional features recited therein.

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Independent Claim 16

Although Claim 16 has different language than Claim 9, Claim 16 is believed to be patentable for similar reasons (where applicable), and because of the different features recited therein.

Dependent Claims 17-23

Claims 17-23, which depend from Claim 16, are believed to be patentable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claim 16, and because of the additional features recited therein.

New Claims 27-31

New Claims 27-31 have been added to more fully define the Applicant's invention and are believed to be fully distinguished over the prior art of record.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned such that any remaining issues may

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be promptly resolved. Also, please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By: Sharon S. Ng
Sharon S. Ng
Registration No. 53,383
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20995
(949) 760-0404

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